



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of
City Coordinator**

Date February 12, 2003

To Council Member Barbara Johnson
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

Subject Revised Minneapolis Code of Ethics

Prepared or Submitted by: Trudy Kjenstad, City Coordinator's office

Approved by: John Moir

Presenters in Committee: Ellen Trout, Ann Eilbracht

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

☐ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

☒ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

☐ Other financial impact (Explain):

☐ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background and Recommendation:

At the Mayor's request, the City of Minneapolis Ethics Task Force has met since March to research and discuss immediate steps to take to improve the ethical culture in Minneapolis City government. In this Report the Task Force recommends that the Mayor and the City Council adopt a new Code of Ethics for the City, appoint an ethics officer to handle ethics questions and complaints for employees, establish an independent Ethical Practices Board to handle ethics complaints against elected and appointed public officials, and revise the Statements of Financial Interest to require additional disclosure of financial interests.

The Task Force recommends that the City establish a mandatory ethics training program for all current and new employees and public officials, and establish a City work group to re-evaluate and revise City policies and procedures in light of the revisions to the Code of Ethics. The Task Force also recommends that other City entities, such as the Park Board and the Library Board, adopt the revised Code of Ethics.

Finally, the Task Force recommends that the City Council consider a change to the City's Charter to address broad language that, as currently interpreted, is inconsistent with the outside employment restrictions outlined in the recommended revised Code of Ethics.

Ethics Task Force Members:

Scott Benson, City Council Member
Ann Eilbracht, Human Resources Director
Timothy Giles, Human Resources Director of Employee Services
Jay Heffern, City Attorney
Bill McCarthy, Minneapolis Central Labor Union President
Peter Wagenius, Senior Policy Aide
Cam Gordon, Citizen
Dore Mead, Citizen
Ellen Trout (Chair), Citizen
Trudy Kjenstad, Staff